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BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR..... 1961



BOROUGH OF BLANDFORD FORUM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

His Worship the Mayor ..... Alderman J.L. Carter

Aldermen:-

D. Gent

G.R.J. Haskett

B.C. Hunt

Councillors:-

T.W. Fowler

G.O. Fry

G. Gibbs

T.L. Hughes

Mrs. G.F. Lane

H.H. Macnally

W.E. Newsome

W.L. Penny

E.G. Riggs

J. Trickett

Miss A.A. Williams

F. Wyatt

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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer	}	5/11th of time
School Medical Officer		
Medical Officer of Health	-	Borough of Blandford Forum.
Medical Officer of Health	-	Blandford Rural District.
Medical Officer of Health	-	Wimborne Minster Urban District.
Medical Officer of Health	-	Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

Contributing roughly:-

Borough of Blandford Forum	-	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week.
Blandford Rural District	-	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week.
Wimborne Minster Urban District	-	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week.
Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District	-	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

H.L. Birkett, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

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Area Office,  
Civic Centre,  
Wimborne Minster.  
Dorset.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, Lady and Gentlemen:-

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report  
for 1961, the preparation of which has been unavoidably delayed.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and  
members of the Public Health Committee for the courtesy shown  
to me, and for the loyal co-operation of your public health  
inspector, Mr. H.L. Birkett.



MAY, 1963.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

4

Area of Borough..... 253 acres.  
Population as estimated by Registrar General.....3,500 (mid-year)  
Total number of inhabited houses at 31/12/61.....1,154  
Rateable value at 1st April, 1961.....£50,256  
Product of penny rate at 1st April, 1961..... £198.19.9.

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As supplied by the Registrar General.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Blandford.</u>	<u>Comparative Statistics.</u>	
					<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative Cty.</u>
Total number registered...	58	29	29			
Legitimate.....	56	28	28			
Illegitimate.....	2	1	1			
Standardised rate.....				17.1	17.4	15.2

STILLBIRTHS

1 male stillbirth was registered.

INFANT MORTALITY

One female infant child died under one week of age.

DEATHS

Total number registered...	68	32	36			
Standardised rate.....				14.2	12.1	12.9

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Comparability Factors.

Births..... 1.03  
Deaths..... 0.73  
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SECTION A  
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The population figure, being that for a census year, is the most accurate mid-year estimate of the decade, and it is pleasing to note that it showed a distinct rise to 3,500.

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SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from Castleman House.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

The Public Health Laboratory Service was created to enable Medical Officers of Health throughout the country to have free access to a Laboratory in connection with epidemiological investigations and routine bacteriological examination of water, milk, ice cream and other foods. The local laboratory is situated at Dorchester and provides an excellent scientific service.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The County Council provided an Infant Welfare Clinic in Blandford once a fortnight.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The County Home Help Scheme provided a service in Blandford and surrounding district.

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SECTION C  
PREVALANCE OF INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES.

Dysentery.....	1
Measles.....	111
Pneumonia.....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1
Tuberculosis.....	3
Whooping cough.....	1

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	15	Males.....	2
Females.....	8	Females.....	1

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION STATISTICS.

<u>FOLIOMYELITIS.</u>			<u>DIPHTHERIA.</u>		<u>WHOOPING COUGH.</u>		<u>TETANUS.</u>		<u>SMALLPOX</u>	
P.	3.	4.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.	P.	B.
163	303	371	73	71	68	17	99	34	58	18

B.C.G.

177

(This figure includes the Blandford )  
(Rural District)

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SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES FOR THE YEAR 1961  
Causes of Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease .....	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-
5. Whooping cough.....	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus....	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast,.....	-	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system....	5	2
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	9	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	2
20. Other heart disease.....	8	8
21. Other circulatory disease.....	1	2
22. Influenza.....	-	2
23. Pneumonia.....	-	2
24. Bronchitis.....	2	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system..	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea....	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	2
34. All other accidents.....	-	-
35. Suicide.....	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-

TOTALS..

32

36

## ADMINISTRATION

8

There were no changes and the system worked smoothly.

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### VERMINOUS OR FILTHY PERSONS OR PREMISES.

No action directly under this heading was necessary.

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### FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified.

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### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Three complaints with respect to the soundness of food purchased were made and investigated, and included one involving a mouldy sausage roll.  
The Council issued warnings to the traders concerned.

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### FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960.

Regular inspection and supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold was carried out and many improvements effected by persuasion and pressure.

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### ICE CREAM

No manufacturing of ice cream is carried out in the Borough .  
Eleven samples were submitted to the Laboratory and satisfactory reports on all were returned, nine being grade 1, and two grade 2.  
Two of these samples were portions of cake containing ice cream.

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### MEAT INSPECTION

This continued on a 100% basis

### PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

My attention was drawn early in the year to an ill woman living alone in dirty circumstances and every effort was made to remedy the situation by kindly persuasion and the provision of a home help. The latter was however rebuffed and it seemed likely that action would become necessary under S.47 of the National Assistance Act or its amendment. In Autumn the family doctor appealed for help in this case, which had become urgent in view of major deterioration in health and conditions, and the case was put before an emergency court. The magistrates made an order committing this elderly person to a hospital, where she remained for many months with very great benefit to her health.

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During the winter the circumstances of two elderly women, both very well known characters in and around the town, demanded urgent consideration. Their house had reached the stage where repair was no longer economic and eventually the two accepted welfare accommodation elsewhere in Dorset.

A lyrically minded bard could put the saga of the pram to a tune along the lined of Sweet Molly Malone. The old ladies were last reported as enjoying their retirement, put out to grass as it were, with no pram to pull through the streets broad and narrow.

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### WATER SUPPLY

Full details were given in my 1960 report and no change has occurred. The water has been consistently satisfactory in quality and adequate in quantity.

Bacteriological results supplied by the chemist to the Poole and East Dorset Water Board for the two bores are given:-

#### RAW WATER.

	<u>Total number of</u> <u>samples.</u>	<u>11. 2. 3. 4.</u> <u>Classification.</u>	<u>P.C.37 deg.C.</u>	<u>Coli. 1.</u>
Black Lane.....	25	17. 6. 2. 0	200	-
Blandford St. Mary...	8		11	-

#### DISTRIBUTED WATER.

Black Lane.....	23	23	-	-	-
Blandford St. Mary...	4	4	-	-	-

An analysis performed by the Public Analyst, Dr. G.V.James of Bristol, showed satisfactory results in all respects and is given in full:-

Consulting Chemists,  
Public Analysts,  
Bacteriologists.

WESTERN COUNTIES LABORATORY  
45, Colston Street,  
BRISTOL, 1.

ANALYSIS of Sample of Water received on 4th October, 1961 from H.L. Birkett, Public Health Officer, Borough of Blandford Forum labelled Mains Water Supply 10.0.a.m. 3rd October, 1961.

### CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

1. Appearance	clear	2. Taste & Odour	normal			
3. Colour	normal	4. pH Value	7.0			
5. Free Chlorine not detected.				parts per million		
6. Total Solid Residue (dried at 180°C)	360	"	"	"		
7. Suspended Matter (dried at 105 C)	nil	"	"	"		
8. Chlorine as chloride	26	"	"	"		
9. Ammoniacal Nitrogen (free ammonia, expressed as N)	less than 0.005	"	"	"		
10. Albuminoid "	(expressed as N)	0.088	parts per million			
11. Nitrate "	( " )	1.0	"	"	"	
12. Nitrite "	( " )	0.009	"	"	"	
13. Total Alkalinity (as Calcium Carbonate)	190	"	"	"		
14. Hardness (Total)	272	"	"	"		
15. " (Temporary)	190	"	"	"		
16. " (Permanent)	82	"	"	"		
17. Metals. Poisonous (as elements)	absent	"	"	"		
18. Oxygen absorption from Permanganate solution in 4 hrs. @ 27 C	0.7	"	"	"		
19 Other Tests						

Remarks: From a chemical aspect, this water is suitable for a public supply and shows no signs of pollution.

7th October, 1961.

Sgd. G.V. James  
Public Analyst.



WATER - Contd.

No plumbo - solvent action takes place, and no contamination has occurred.

All houses are supplied by public mains but an estimated twenty-five had stand pipes only, involving about fifty five persons.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

Bacteriological results obtained by the Public Health Laboratory are given:-

7th June..... 6 samples - all satisfactory.

7th July..... 6 samples - 3 satisfactory.

The other three yielded 13, 25 and 3B coli type 1 per 100 ml

20th July..... 6 samples yielding B. coli type 1 in 100 ml.  
1, 25, 13, 25, 35, 25.

4th August..... 2 samples taken immediately after filling with mains water gave no coliform growth and were satisfactory.

29th August..... 4 samples - all satisfactory.

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The Council decided that the Public Health Department should be responsible for deciding when the water needed changing, and in order to place this decision on a firm basis of measurement, provision was made in the estimates for a simple turbidity measuring instrument.

Turbidity due to suspended particulate matter, particularly algae harmless in themselves, unfortunately interferes with chlorination and upon the effectiveness of the latter process ultimately depends the safety of the water.

Discussions continued during the year on the provision of an entirely new swimming bath to serve the Borough and surrounding districts. A project of this magnitude necessarily involves prolonged consideration and investigation but meanwhile a fine warm summer would present difficult problems in the sphere of bacterial control of the water.

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DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Borough has been sewered for many years.

CLEAN AIR ACT.

No action was necessary.

OVERCROWDING.

(a)	No. of Dwellings overcrowded 31/12/61.....	2
	No. of Families therein.....	3
	No. of persons involved.....	15
(b)	No. of new cases reported.....	Nil
(c)	No. of cases of overcrowding relieved and number of persons concerned.....	-
(d)	No. of renewed cases of overcrowding.....	-

RENTS ACT, 1957

No application for Certificates of Disrepair were received from tenants during 1961 and there were no certificates outstanding from the previous year.

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FACTORIES ACT - 1957  
Part One - Health (General Provisions)

<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u> (4)	<u>Number of:- Occupiers prosecuted</u> (5)
(1)	(2)	(3)		
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.s	6	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	50	11	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers' premises)	N11	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Number of Cases in which defects were found:-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>
Sanitary Conveniences			
(a) Insufficient	2	2	nil

Part VIII of the Act

<u>OUTWORKERS</u>	<u>Number of Outworkers on List</u>
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Wearing apparel - making etc.	12
Curtains and furniture hangings	1

No cases of default in sending lists to the Council or prosecutions for failure to supply lists occurred.

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises.

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REFUSE COLLECTION

This is on a weekly basis.

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REFUSE DISPOSAL

The old tip continued in use. Investigations were continued jointly with the Rural District into the provision of a disposal site where up to date methods could be employed.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA.

Summary of Inspection and re-visits made in the course of routine work during the year 1961 by your public health inspector:-

Public Health Acts.

Houses.....	206
Other premises.....	73
Housing Inspections...	56
Infectious Diseases...	0
Disinfestation.....	11
Markets.....	50
Factories.....	15
Food Inspection:-	
Meat Inspection.....	476
Cafes.....	35
Ice Cream premises....	14
Grocers.....	16
Butchers.....	21
Bakeries.....	8
Fried Fish.....	4
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General.....	84

Action taken under Acts of  
Parliament.

(a) Public Health Acts.

Number of Informal Notices served.....	27
Number of Informal Notices complied with.....	19
Number of Statutory Notices served.....	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.....	2

(b) Housing Acts.

Number of Statutory Notices served.....	nil
Number of Statutory Notices complied with.....	nil

(c) Number of Unfit Houses closed..... 5

Number of Unfit Houses demolished.....	nil
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(d) Factories Acts and Regulations

Number of Informal Notices served.....	2
Number of Informal Notices complied with.....	2
Number of Formal Notices served.....	nil
Number of Formal Notices complied with.....	nil

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RODENT CONTROL.

Total number of visits made.....	295
Number of premises found to be infested with rats.....	32
Number of premises found to be infested with mice.....	6
Number of premises found to be infested with rats and mice.....	31

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A large number of complaints received from the public of infestation of cockroaches, ants and wasps were effectively dealt with by the Rodent Officer.

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